

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00776 220620Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-12 OMB-01 CU-04 EB-08 /096 W
-----079878 220837Z /13

R 220601Z MAR 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0196
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0776

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR CH UR ETRD
SUBJ: SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: A) MOSCOW 5333, B) PEKING 685

1. SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR TOLD USLO OFFICER MARCH 21
THAT WORDING OF CHINESE RESPONSE TO SUPREME SOVIET MESSAGE TO NPC
HAD BEEN VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO APPLICABLE PORTION OF
HUA KUO-FENG'S WORK REPORT. THE EMBASSY THOUGHT THAT
HUA HAD TAKEN A FAIRLY HARD LINE EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE
TWO MINOR POSITIVE INDICATORS IN HIS SPEECH: HE HAD NOT
ATTACKED BREZHNEV OR KOSYGIN BY NAME AND HE HAD AT LEAST
MENTIONED THAT CHINA AND THE USSR HAD ENJOYED GOOD RELATIONS
AT ONE TIME. THESE WERE INSIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS, ACCORDING
TO THE SOVIET COUNSELOR, "THE LITTLE BIT OF SLACK
THAT THE CHINESE PUT IN THE ROPE BEFORE THEY HANG YOU,"
AND BILATERAL POLITICAL RELATIONS REMAINED AS BAD AS EVER.
THE EMBASSY THUS DID NOT EXPECT ANOTHER VISIT BY VICE
FOREIGN MINISTER ILICHEV IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHIEF BORDER
NEGOTIATOR FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

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2. TRADE TALKS WITH THE PRC WERE PROGRESSING REASONABLY
WELL, HOWEVER, COUNSELOR NOTED, AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED
IN TIME TO BEGIN SHIPMENTS IN APRIL. SOVIETS HOPED TO
BEGIN NEXT ROUND COVERING 1979 TRADE BEFORE THE END
OF 1978 AND THOUGHT THAT CHINESE WOULD AGREE. ACCORDING TO THIS
SOURCE TRADE VOLUME WILL REMAIN AT THE SAME LEVEL OR RISE VERY
SLIGHTLY.

WOODCOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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